

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

1900 Williams Street - P.O. Box 4789  
Helena, MT 59604-4789  
Telephone: (406) 841-3911 Fax: (406) 841-3966

Situation Report for August 27, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: August 26, 2003 (2130)**

**A. Large Fires**      *Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5*  
   *National Preparedness Level = 5*

**NORTHERN ROCKIES DAILY SUMMARY**

Light initial attack 14 new fires 8,199 acres

Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:

- Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team(Ferguson) – 1,409 acres, 0% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.
- Ball Creek – 260 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Bigfork.
- Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) – 45,100 acres, 60% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.
- Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 2,027 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.
- Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 45,998 acres, 65% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.
- Trapper Creek Complex – 26,176 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.
- Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) – 10,169 acres, 35% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.
- High – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Weldon) - 120 acres, 0% contained, 23 miles NE of Seeley Lake.
- Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath) – 35,000 acre, Wildland Fire Use complex, 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.
- Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 252 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier, MT.

Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:

- Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 34,905 acres, 35% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.
- Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kearney) – 13,000 acres,

35% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.

- East Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) – 23,500 acres, 45% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.
- Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 2,314 acres, 2% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.
- Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) – 2,750 acres, 40% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.
- Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 3,080 acres, 70% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.

**Missoula Area Command** (Ribar) is managing the following fires:

- Cherry Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 4,088 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.
- Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 22,468 acres, 60% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.
- Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 30,856 acres, 22% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.
- Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) – 7,050 acres, 70% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.
- Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 24,000 acres, 50% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.
- Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 8,296 acres, 65% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.
- Rathbone – 157 acres, 75% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone,
- Mollman – 158 acres, 30% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan.
- Bull Elk – 58 miles NE of Lewistown, 300 acres, 85% contained.

**B. Initial Attack**      Light initial attack – 14 new fires 8199 acres

**C. State Forecast For Montana**

Red Flag Warnings are in effect for the following zones: 104-107,110-133.

**WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**

TODAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY BECOMING PARTLY CLOUDY. SCATTERED MORNING SHOWERS. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON. BREEZY WEST WINDS. HIGHS 77 TO 87.

TONIGHT..PARTLY CLOUDY. BREEZY WEST WINDS DECREASING OVERNIGHT. LOWS 42 TO 52.  
.THURSDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF RAIN SHOWERS. HIGHS 73 TO 83.

**CENTRAL MONTANA**

TODAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY. ISOLATED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE MID 70S TO MID 80S.

TONIGHT..PARTLY CLOUDY. LOWS IN THE LOWER 40S TO LOWER 50S.

THURSDAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE LOWER 60S TO LOWER 70S.

**SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

TODAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY. SCATTERED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE MORNING THEN ISOLATED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON. HIGHS IN THE UPPER 60S TO LOWER 80S.

TONIGHT..PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE EVENING THEN SLIGHT CHANCE OF RAIN SHOWERS AFTER MIDNIGHT. LOWS IN THE LOWER TO MID 40S.

THURSDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF RAIN SHOWERS. HIGHS IN THE LOWER 60S TO LOWER 70S.

**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**

TODAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY AND WINDY. A CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE 80S.

TONIGHT..PARTLY CLOUDY. A CHANCE OF RAIN SHOWERS SOUTHWEST. LOWS IN THE 50S.

THURSDAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY WEST..PARTLY CLOUDY EAST. A CHANCE OF RAIN SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. COOLER WITH HIGHS FROM THE 60S NORTH TO NEAR 80 SOUTH .

**III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

*The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:*

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03

*The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:*

<b><i>Flathead</i></b>	<b><i>Chouteau</i></b>
<b><i>Glacier</i></b>	<b><i>Jefferson</i></b>
<b><i>Lake</i></b>	<b><i>Meagher</i></b>
<b><i>Lewis&amp; Clark</i></b>	<b><i>Mineral</i></b>
<b><i>Lincoln</i></b>	<b><i>Missoula</i></b>
<b><i>Sanders</i></b>	<b><i>Pondera</i></b>
<b><i>Teton</i></b>	<b><i>Powell</i></b>
<b><i>Broadwater</i></b>	<b><i>Toole</i></b>
<b><i>Cascade</i></b>	

#### IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

##### State and National Guard Assistance:

Current Montana National Guard Resources			
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	68 HMMVs	
	C-12R	3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		6 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		18 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		4 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO	
		3 CUCV	
		1 One Ton	
442Soldiers Assigned	4 Aircraft Modules	131 HVY Equipment	159 Airmen Assigned

##### Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
  - Northwest Area Command
  - Missoula Area Command
  - Central Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

#### V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)

*For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed\\_sit.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac\\_priorities.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc)